

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 020445

66

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 /021 R

DRAFTED BY COM/BIC/CAGNE/JHEARN/BT

APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FDICKMAN

COM/BIC/CAGNE/PBHALE

NEA/RA:DTMORRISON

EB/OCA/CM:LAKLIEFORTH

L/NEA:BKH:FFMAN

----- 055709

P 272247Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020445

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP,SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI REQUIREMENT RE STAR OF DAVID CERTIFICATION

REF: STATE 299670

1. SUBSEQUENT TO TRANSMISSION REFTTEL, COMMERCE LEARNED THAT REQUIREMENT IN SAUDI LETTERS OF CREDIT (L/CS) FOR CERTIFICATION THAT STAR OF DAVID WOULD NOT APPEAR ON GOODS OR PACKAGES WAS APPARENTLY INSTITUTED BY SAG. IN EARLY JANUARY M.J. KELLY COMPANY OF CLEVELAND CALLED COMMERCE ABOUT PROBLEM WITH L/C CONTAINING STAR OF DAVID REQUIREMENT. AT THAT TIME DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED TO CONSIDER STAR OF DAVID AS SYMBOL OF JEWISH RELIGION, THEREBY MAKING COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENT A DISCRIMINATORY ACTION WHICH PROHIBITED BY COMMERCE REGULATIONS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1. FIRM ADVISED BY COMMERCE TO SEEK AMENDMENT OF L/C TO HAVE REQUIREMENT DELETED.

2. ON BEING APPROACHED BY KELLY REP JIDDA, NATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK OF JIDDA (NCB) SHOWED REP COPY OF DIRECTIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 020445

FROM MINISTRY COMMERCE PUTTING REQUIREMENT IN EFFECT. NCB

UNABLE DELETE REQUIREMENT, BUT CABLED KELLY FIRM'S BANK IN CLEVELAND THAT ON EXISTING AND FUTURE LETTERS OF CREDIT,

LANGUAGE COULD BE CHANGED TO READ QUOTE SIX-POINT STAR, ISRAELI SYMBOL UNQUOTE. OTHER FIRMS ADVISED BY COMMERCE TO SEEK AMENDED L/C REPORTED RECEIVING SAME ADVICE FROM NCB; FURTHER, BELIEVE SOME BANKS NOW RECEIVING INITIAL L/CS FROM NCB WITH SIX-POINT STAR RATHER THAN STAR OF DAVID SYMBOL INDICATED. THESE DEVELOPMENTS SEEM TO SUPPORT INITIAL NCB CONTENTION TO KELLY REP THAT REQUIREMENT WAS NOT MEANT TO BE DISCRIMINATORY BUT WAS INTENDED IN POLITICAL SENSE MAINLY TO PROTECT SECURITY OF GOODS IN SAUDI ARABIA.

3. ON BASIS DEVELOPMENTS PARA 2, COMMERCE HAS PREPARED PROPOSED SUPPLEMENT TO REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD MAKE FOLLOWING DISTINCTION: QUOTE STAR OF DAVID OR DAVID STAR UNQUOTE WILL BE CONSIDERED AS RELIGIONS SYMBOL, MAKING COMPLIANCE PROHIBITED UNDER SUBSECTION 369.2; TERMINOLOGY REFERRING TO NATIONAL SYMBOL, SUCH AS SIX-POINT STAR, ISRAELI STAR, ETC., WILL BE CONSIDERED AS POLITICAL, I.E., ACTION IN SUPPORT OF FOREIGN BOYCOTT WITH WHICH U.S. FIRMS ENCOURAGED NOT TO COMPLY BUT NOT PROHIBITED FROM COMPLYING (SUBSECTION 369.3). APPROPRIATE USG CLEARANCES NOW BEING SOUGHT PRIOR TO ISSUING ANNOUNCEMENT.

4. COMMERCE TODAY RECEIVED COPY OF JANUARY 26 JIDDA TELEX TO KELLY HOME OFFICE FROM FIRM'S VICE PRESIDENT, L.A. KELLER REPORTING THAT STAR OF DAVID REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN RESCINDED ENTIRELY BY MINISTRY COMMERCE AND SAUDI BANKS SO NOTIFIED BY MAIL JANUARY 25. EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUESTED CONFIRM WHETHER REQUIREMENT HAS IN FACT BEEN RESCINDED AND REPORT ASAP.

5. IN EVENT THIS REPORT INCORRECT AND REQUIREMENT STILL IN EFFECT, EMBASSY MAY WISH REVIEW FOREGOING WITH MINCOMM SOLAIM. IF SAG SEES CONTINUED NEED FOR SOME SUCH REQUIREMENT, AND INTENT OF REQUIREMENT IS POLITICAL AS STATED BY SAUDI SOURCES, WE WOULD STRONGLY HOPE THAT SAG IN IMPLEMENTING SUCH REQUIREMENT WILL SEE FIT TO MAKE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 020445

APPROPRIATE DISTINCTION BETWEEN NATIONAL SYMBOLS AND THOSE WHICH MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS RELIGIOUS IN NATURE. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE020445
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BIC/CAGNE/JHEARN/BT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760031-0533
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760116/aaaaantf.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 299670
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI REQUIREMENT RE STAR OF DAVID CERTIFICATION
TAGS: BEXP, SA
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006